

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:194
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
NEW TELECOM POLICY
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Telecommunication is working on a fresh telecom policy in order to provide 250 million telephones by 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allow the Cellular Operators in rural and semi urban areas to share Universal Service Obligation Fund; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 194 FOR 16.3.2005 REGARDING NEW TELECOM POLICY.

(a) & (b): After the announcement of the New Telecom Policy, 1999, the Telecom sector in India has witnessed accelerated growth in tele-density and changes in technology. The tele-density target of 7.0 has been met one year ahead of schedule. It has now been decided to provide 200-250 million telephones by the year 2007. The Government has, in October, 2004, announced its Broadband Policy.

The Department has also asked all Public Sector Operators and Private Sector Operators to prepare a detailed plan of action for their respective companies in view of target of 250 million Telephones by the year 2007.

(c) & (d): There is at present no decision to allow Cellular Operators in semi urban areas to share Universal Service Obligation Fund.